



*Maj. James Andrews, 15th Ordnance Battalion executive officer, left, hands the Army Meritorious Service Medal to Patrick Hall, the son of the late Staff Sgt. Howard Hall who was killed in an automobile accident on Aberdeen Proving Ground March 1, as Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. William Hart looks on during an informal award ceremony at the city of Aberdeen Fire Station April 7.*

## 16th Ordnance honors its own

*Story and photo by  
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APG News*

The noncommissioned officers of the Aberdeen Proving Ground lost a respected team member when Staff Sgt. Howard Hall, an instructor-writer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion, passed away from injuries received in a traffic accident on post March 1.

Mindful of his contributions to his fellow NCOs and to the Advanced Individual Training Soldiers he trained, commanders submitted his name for the same honor any honorably discharged NCO would receive upon leaving the service.

Led by Maj. James

McAndrews, the battalion's executive officer, and Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. William Hart, the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal was presented to Hall's son, Patrick Hall, a firefighter with the city of Aberdeen, during an informal ceremony at the Fire House April 7.

Hall, 20, has been with the unit for eight months.

Before the reading of the award, McAndrews told Hall that his father was a highly valued and respected NCO.

"The unit seriously misses his loss," McAndrews said. "Everyone here is here on behalf of the unit and the many Soldiers he instructed," he said of the NCOs in attendance.

"This award is the result of

the command's appreciation for his contributions to Soldiers and to the Army," Hart said, adding that posthumous awards are, "typically given to the next of kin after the Soldier's death."

"We thought that this way it would mean more to his son and his family," Hart said.

Sgt. 1st Class Armando Bustos, the late Staff Sgt. Hall's supervisor, told his son, "Your father was a good man."

"He did it all," Bustos said, noting that Hall taught NCO Academy and Warrant Officer students as well as AIT Soldiers.

"He could teach everything and I could count on him for anything," he said. "He was a good man and my section was hit very hard by his loss."

The NCOs formed a line to offer their condolences, congratulations and offers of support to Hall and his family after the ceremony. Through tear-filled eyes he thanked them for the heartfelt gesture.

"They didn't have to do this and the fact that they would take the time to do this means a lot," he said, adding that he didn't even know about the award until the day before. "I was surprised," he said. "This is a real comfort."